

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4549

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSAFE

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES INTAF

UNCLAS ANKARA 6127

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFORN, TU, US

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON DEFENSE COOPERATION
AGREEMENT

IN WHAT MAY BE A CONTINUING TURKISH GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO
KEEP THE U.S. CONGRESS ON NOTICE THAT IT MUST PASS THE
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA), DEFENSE MINISTER
FERIT MELEN SAID THERE WOULD BE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES IF
DCA IS NOT APPROVED. MELEN'S STATEMENT APPEARED IN AN
EXCLUSIVER INTERVIEW IN AUGUST 9 "CUMHURIYET". HE HEDGED,
HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT RUMORS WHETHER TURKEY WOULD
CLOSE DOWN COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AND WITHDRAW
FROM NATO IF DCA IS NOT APPROVED, SAYING ONLY THAT IT
WOULD BE SERIOUS FOR THE US-TURKISH ALLIANCE AND FOR NATO.
HE REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID THAT TURKEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE
VARIOUS MEASURES FOR DEFENSE AND SECURITY, BUT THAT IT IS
TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT THOSE MEASURES WOULD BE.

MACOMBER

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